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Market News

Issued LIVESTOCK DIVISION Weekly

MARKET REVIEWS AND STATISTICS

Vol. 24, No. 9 February 28, 1956

Week ended February 25

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U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE
LIVESTOCK DIVISION
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MIDWEST LIVESTOCK MARKET REVIEW

Cattle receipts were fairly large on Monday and prices showed a moderate decline. The trend was stronger on subsequent days and most late sales of fed steers were steady to 50¢ higher, although prices at a few markets showed some net decline for the week. Hog receipts were a little smaller than last week but more than sufficient for the immediate needs of the trade and prices declined 25-75¢ with greater downturns on weights under 190#. Marketings of slaughter lambs were largest of the month but demand was good and prices closed steady to 50¢ or more higher.

SLAUGHTER CATTLE AND CALVES

Most terminal livestock markets remained open for business as usual on Wednesday, February 22, but the day was a holiday in most packing establishments, and slaughter requirements were reduced accordingly. The country anticipated this and sent in fewer cattle, and the week's run was nearly 10% below the previous week. Receipts were fairly liberal Monday, however, and trade was slow with a lower price trend. Runs on Tuesday and Wednesday were somewhat below normal, and despite suspension of slaughter Wednesday, demand was fairly good and early declines on fed steers were largely regained. Thus, in spite of a larger than normal Thursday run, closing prices on steers were steady to 50¢ higher than a week earlier at most midwest markets, influenced in part by some improvement in the dressed beef trade. The main exceptions were at South St. Paul and St. Louis National Stock Yards where late transactions were weak to 50¢ lower. Heifers failed to regain early downturns and finished largely steady to 50¢ lower, with a similar trend on cows. The price trend on bulls and vealers was somewhat mixed.

At Chicago Prime steers ranged from $17.50-25.50; Choice $16.50-22.50; Good $15.00-18.00, the overlapping being accounted for mainly by price variations due to weight. Top of $25.50 was paid for high-Prime 1072# steers, while at the other extreme excessively heavy Prime steers sold down to $17.50, a shipment of Choice and Prime 1866# steers $16.50. Average weights of beef steers were again quite heavy, the average of 1166# at Chicago being 88# above a year ago; average at Omaha 44# above last year; at Sioux City 37# and at St. Louis National Stock Yards 47# above the corresponding week a year ago. For the country as a whole, more steers were slaughtered under Federal inspection in January than in any previous month of record, and the average weight of about 1057# for all steers slaughtered under Federal inspection last month was heaviest for any month of record. The average weight of nearly 1021# for all cattle slaughtered under Federal inspection in January was with one exception heaviest of record.

STOCKER AND FEEDER CATTLE AND CALVES

Marketings of stocker and feeder cattle and calves continued of small to moderate proportions. Shipments of steers to the country from the 10 markets totaled 13,918, compared with 12,565 the previous week and 11,843 a year ago. The outgo of calves was 4,689, a week ago 3,782, a year ago 2,655. Good and low-Choice yearling and two-year-old steers again made up a fairly large percent of the supplies. Trading was somewhat uneven but prices for the most part varied but little from a steady basis. Well bred stockers 650# down continued to attract by far the most aggressive demand and in some instances prices of these were moderately stronger. At Oklahoma City and Wichita stock cattle were steady to 50¢ higher, the start of a new grass season being closer to reality in those areas and naturally a factor in stimulating the demand. Meanwhile, prices of feeder steers, particularly 800# up, were generally slow and steady to weak. The relatively narrow outlet for feeders reflected the continued unfavorable price relationship between fats and feeders. The average cost of all feeder steers

800# up shipped to the country from Kansas City during the week at $15.94 was $4.08 lower than a year ago but at the same time the average price of all fed steers on that market during the week at $16.70 was $5.23 under a year ago. As a result, the relatively wide price gap between lightweight stockers and heavier feeder steers showed a tendency to widen still further. Good and Choice yearling stock steers sold from $16.50-21.50, few 525# $21.75. The same grades of steer calves brought $17.00-22.00, a few Choice to Fancy offerings reaching $23.00. At the same time, most feedlot operators were reluctant to go above $16.50 on steers over 800#, although a few Choice 797# sold as high as $17.50.

HOGS

Combined salable receipts of hogs at the 12 terminal markets and Interior Iowa and Southern Minnesota were slightly smaller than a week earlier but nearly 20% larger than a year ago. Supplies were bolstered by increased offerings of new crop hogs. Kansas City had the largest week's run of hogs since early January, and Indianapolis receipts were largest since mid-September, 1955, a substantial portion consisting of new-crop offerings. There was also an increased showing of such hogs at Omaha, St. Joseph, South St. Paul and other points. On Thursday, following the Washington's Birthday Holiday, a movement of 110,000 head in the Interior Area was the largest of record for a February day. Prices of butchers and most sows declined for the fourth successive week in spite of a fairly active wholesale fresh pork trade and mostly firm to higher fresh pork prices. Butchers 240# down closed largely 25¢-75¢ lower, heavier weights mainly steady to 50¢ off. Outlet was extremely narrow for butchers under 190# and prices declined 50¢-$1.00, instances $1.50 off. Sows closed steady to 50¢ lower. Shippers were moderately good buyers at some points, but outlet into these channels was below normal at others. Price spreads between U. S. No. 1 and 2 grade lots and fatter butchers were slightly reduced as the proportion of No. 1 and 2 offerings increased. Nevertheless, No. 1 and 2 lots still sold as much as 50-75¢ above lots grading No. 2 to mostly No. 3. The average weight of all hogs slaughtered under Federal inspection in January was lightest for a January since 1941.

Stocker and feeder pigs at Sioux City closed steady to weak, some 25¢ lower, with a steady price trend at S. St. Paul. Good and Choice feeders sold mostly from $10.00-10.50 at both markets. At Memphis feeder pig prices declined 50¢. A few good 100# pigs brought $9.50 Monday and a few $9.00 later, but most Medium and Good 70-120# offerings sold from $8.50-8.75, some down to $8.00.

SHEEP AND LAMBS

Receipts at midwest terminals were moderately larger than the previous week and a year ago, but with wholesale dressed lamb prices showing some improvement, trading on live lambs was quite active at most points. Price trend was unevenly steady to $1.00 higher, mainly 25-50¢ up. Slaughter ewes reached a new recent high at Chicago, but otherwise this class sold mainly steady. Feeder lambs closed steady to 50¢ higher. Lambs over 110# were still discounted up to $2.00 per cwt. for around 125-130# averages, but sorting was usually more lenient than recently. Good to Prime wooled lambs under 110# bulked at $18.00-20.50, a few reaching $20.75. The same grades of 110-140# lambs sold largely from $16.00-20.00, while Cull to low-Good lots turned at $10.00-18.50. Good to Prime shorn lambs carrying No. 2 to summer shorn pelts and weighing up to 118# cleared at $18.25-19.50, a few fall and summer shorn to $20.50, the latter price at Kansas City for 87# averages. Fresh shorn lambs sold down to $15.50. Cull to Choice slaughter ewes brought $3.00-8.50. Sales of Medium to Choice feeder lambs ranged from $17.00-20.25.

Continued on page 180.

WEEKLY RECEIPTS OF SALABLE LIVESTOCK AT 12 PUBLIC MARKETS

Market	Cattle		Calves		Hogs		Sheep	
	Feb. 25 1956	Feb. 26 1955	Feb. 25 1956	Feb. 26 1955	Feb. 25 1956	Feb. 26 1955	Feb. 25 1956	Feb. 26 1955
Chicago	42,131	38,666	1,295	1,628	48,120	47,190	11,448	14,016
Cincinnati	4,040	4,061	1,034	1,206	20,279	19,824	423	567
Denver	11,607	11,046	319	664	2,775	2,802	24,754	21,310
Fort Worth	6,838	6,680	1,316	2,616	2,079	1,797	11,058	9,232
Indianapolis	8,363	8,582	1,004	1,401	63,510	52,818	1,045	2,497
Kansas City	20,738	17,365	1,218	1,626	13,357	8,514	6,453	4,867
Oklahoma City	9,380	8,708	741	1,181	3,068	3,222	2,103	1,709
Omaha	36,432	34,560	841	686	47,902	33,839	14,557	13,432
St. Joseph	14,412	14,381	784	763	31,739	22,221	5,053	4,553
St. Louis NSY	16,851	13,856	3,107	3,244	65,397	50,442	3,975	3,256
Sioux City	21,182	19,867	673	63	37,612	28,340	7,621	11,251
S. St. Paul	18,718	19,443	11,362	9,780	64,780	56,066	13,295	9,813
Total	210,692	197,215	23,694	24,858	400,618	327,075	101,785	96,503
Feb. 18, 1956	230,124		25,727		404,921		97,145	

INTERIOR IOWA AND SOUTHERN MINNESOTA

Week ended:	Hogs	Sheep
Feb. 25, 1956	387,000	25,500
Feb. 18, 1956	391,000	27,700
Feb. 26, 1955	329,500	31,400

FEEDER AND STOCKER CATTLE: AVERAGE COST, WEIGHT, AND NUMBER

	Week ended			Month	
	Feb. 23 1956	Feb. 16 1956	Feb. 24 1955	Jan. 1956	Jan. 1955
Steers – 1001# up	304	262	363	1,891	2,225
901-1000	1,060	976	1,308	6,095	8,611
801-900	2,240	2,277	2,135	16,183	15,367
701-800	2,450	2,373	2,022	17,268	17,526
501-700	7,864	6,677	6,015	34,768	44,818
Total steers 10 mkts.	13,918	12,565	11,843	76,205	88,547
Av. wts. " " "	697#	712#	727#	721#	711#
Av.cost* " " "	$16.67	$16.36	$19.79	$16.64	$19.79
" " " Chicago	17.48	16.00	20.04	16.76	19.78
" " " Ks. City	17.10	16.80	20.37	17.13	20.40
" " " Omaha	16.44	15.82	20.30	16.34	19.58
" " " S. St. Paul	15.01	15.13	16.81	15.06	17.20
" " " Sioux City	17.27	16.69	20.48	16.54	20.18
" " " Denver	16.00	16.42	20.76	17.90	22.36
" " " Ft. Worth	16.60	16.14	19.05	16.27	18.52
" " " Okla. City	16.13	16.38	19.42	16.25	18.05
" " " S. St. Joseph	16.33	16.54	20.15	16.35	19.54
" " " Natl. Stk. Yds.	16.25	16.38	18.46	16.09	18.38
Total calves–10 mkts.	4,689	3,782	2,655	34,140	49,189
" cows.					
heifers, bulls– " "	2,093	2,005	1,800	14,560	20,821

* Not adjusted for differences in grade of cattle sold at each market.

BEEF STEERS SOLD OUT OF FIRST HANDS FOR SLAUGHTER

Grade	Number of head			Percent of total by grades			Average weight (pounds)			Average price in dollars per 100 lb.		
	Week ended											
	Feb. 23 1956	Feb. 16 1956	Feb. 24 1955	Feb. 23 1956	Feb. 16 1956	Feb. 24 1955	Feb. 23 1956	Feb. 16 1956	Feb. 24 1955	Feb. 23 1956	Feb. 16 1956	Feb. 24 1955
CHICAGO												
Prime	3891	5253	656	14.1	17.4	3.1	1302	1278	1160	21.86	22.09	31.54
Choice	16455	16943	9500	59.7	56.3	45.1	1187	1185	1155	18.95	19.14	26.01
Good	5772	6306	8900	20.9	20.9	42.2	1054	1065	1024	16.89	17.07	22.19
Com'l.	1152	1151	1613	4.2	3.9	7.7	1015	1036	928	14.78	14.79	18.20
Utility	293	460	413	1.1	1.5	1.9	961	1011	936	13.31	13.46	15.18
All grades	27663	30113	21082				1166	1168	1078	18.82	19.08	23.96
OMAHA 1/												
Prime	456	370	--	2.6	2.1	--	1299	1299	--	21.41	21.35	--
Choice	9333	10508	6424	52.8	59.4	47.6	1148	1169	1111	18.09	18.14	24.16
Good	6546	5379	6050	37.1	30.4	44.8	1082	1074	1048	16.29	16.18	21.34
Com'l.	1111	1284	773	6.3	7.3	5.7	1008	1027	975	14.03	13.78	17.20
Utility	218	151	251	1.2	.8	1.9	899	979	908	11.65	11.69	14.66
All grades	17664	17692	13498				1115	1131	1071	17.25	17.32	22.41
SIOUX CITY 1/												
Prime	760	469	19	9.8	5.8	.3	1304	1295	1275	20.41	20.28	30.75
Choice	3394	3837	1889	43.7	47.5	30.3	1159	1186	1131	18.34	18.32	24.39
Good	3147	3392	3808	40.6	42.0	61.1	1076	1072	1079	16.61	16.64	21.37
Com'l.	318	285	417	4.1	3.5	6.7	1017	969	1051	14.15	14.24	17.13
Utility	139	101	100	1.8	1.2	1.6	926	1060	1047	12.36	11.03	15.50
All grades	7758	8084*	6233				1130	1136*	1093	17.66	17.58	21.99
KANSAS CITY 1/												
Prime	42	27	--	.1	.4	--	1025	1188	--	20.00	19.89	--
Choice	2968	2849	1627	35.8	33.8	46.2	1108	1097	1080	17.72	17.79	23.50
Good	3902	3891	1662	47.1	46.1	47.2	1056	1054	1043	16.34	16.27	21.04
Com'l.	1218	1299	231	15.0	15.2	6.6	1016	980	1052	14.96	14.92	16.96
Utility	161	377	4	2.0	4.5	--	1006	1080	974	12.56	12.26	12.73
All grades	8291	8443	3524				1067	1059	1061	16.70	16.44	21.93
ST. LOUIS NSY 1/												
Prime	12	23	--	.2	.4	--	987	1194	--	21.33	22.12	--
Choice	1472	1398	133	24.1	25.3	4.8	1097	1085	1099	18.35	18.39	25.19
Good	3457	3149	2096	56.6	57.0	76.0	1042	1039	1006	16.50	16.54	22.07
Com'l.	1079	836	439	17.7	15.1	16.0	969	963	916	14.68	14.74	18.98
Utility	85	120	89	1.4	2.2	3.2	817	819	860	12.58	12.71	15.69
All grades	6105	5526	2757				1039	1037	992	16.64	16.73	21.61
S. ST. JOSEPH 1/												
Prime	3	38	--	--	.5	--	1163	1455	--	21.00	20.00	--
Choice	2213	2423	2378	36.3	32.5	39.6	1136	1138	1100	17.92	17.97	23.57
Good	2867	3651	3141	47.0	49.0	52.3	1118	1093	1006	16.23	16.49	20.24
Com'l.	858	1189	444	14.1	16.0	7.4	1020	1028	1030	14.34	14.62	16.63
Utility	158	149	48	2.6	2.0	.7	956	935	823	12.44	12.07	13.85
All grades	6099	7450	6011				1107	1096	1043	16.53	16.66	21.32

*Revised.

Continued.

BEEF STEERS SOLD OUT OF FIRST HANDS FOR SLAUGHTER

Grade	Number of head			Percent of total by grades			Average weight (pounds)			Average price in dollars per 100 lb.		
	Week ended											
	23 1956	Feb. 16 1956	24 1955	23 1956	Feb. 16 1956	24 1955	23 1956	Feb. 16 1956	24 1955	23 1956	Feb. 16 1956	24 1955
DENVER 1/												
Prime	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Choice	3136	3522	2087	73.7	69.4	72.4	1172	1150	1067	18.10	18.67	24.38
Good	1059	1428	769	24.9	28.1	26.7	1089	1181	1033	16.61	16.93	22.90
Com'l.	50	128	27	1.2	2.5	.9	1050	1067	1089	13.08	13.85	15.50
Utility	10	--	--	.2	--	--	991	--	--	10.75	--	--
All grades	4255	5078	2883				1149	1156	1058	17.68	18.06	23.91

1/ These summaries developed from data collected on marketings of fed cattle by the Agricultural Estimates Division.

ESTIMATED FEDERALLY INSPECTED SLAUGHTER AND MEAT PRODUCTION

Week ended	Beef		Veal		Pork (excl. lard)		Lamb and mutton		Total meat prod.	Total lard prod.
	Number	Prod.	Number	Prod.	Number	Prod.	Number	Prod.		
	1,000	mil. lb.	1,000	mil. lb.	1,000	mil. lb.	1,000	mil. lb.	mil. lb.	mil. lb.
Feb. 25, 1956	339	192.9	133	15.0	1,391	184.7	266	13.0	405.6	47.3
Feb. 18, 1956	361	205.4	139	15.7	1,460	193.4	266	13.0	427.5	51.1
Feb. 11, 1956 1/	352	200.3	139	15.7	1,368	181.1	272	13.3	410.4	48.7
Feb. 26, 1955	314	167.8	135	14.8	1,128	149.9	245	12.0	344.5	37.0
Percentage change from:										
Feb. 18, 1956	-6	-6	-4	-4	-5	-4	0	0	-5	-7
Feb. 26, 1955	+8	+15	-1	+1	+23	+23	+9	+8	+18	+28

Week ended	Average weights (lb.)								Lard yield per 100 lb.
	Cattle		Calves		Hogs		Sheep and lambs		
	Live	Dressed	Live	Dressed	Live	Dressed 2/	Live	Dressed	
Feb. 25, 1956	1,025	569	205	113	231	133	103	49	14.7
Feb. 18, 1956	1,025	569	205	113	232	132	103	49	15.1
Feb. 11, 1956	1,025	569	205	113	234	132	103	49	15.4
Feb. 26, 1955	981	534	199	110	235	133	103	49	14.0

1/ Actual slaughter and revised estimate of production. 2/ Excludes lard.

TOTAL MEATS, MEAT PRODUCTS, AND BYPRODUCTS GRADED, OR CERTIFIED AS COMPLYING WITH SPECIFICATIONS BY THE U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Month	Beef	Veal and calf	Lamb, yearling and mutton	Total	All other meats and lard	Grand total
	1,000#	1,000#	1,000#	1,000#	1,000#	1,000#
January 1956	601,587	18,368	23,683	643,638	14,618	658,256
December 1955	535,101	21,037	20,017	576,155	12,715	588,870
January 1955	468,836	22,573	22,301	513,710	18,860	532,570

WEEKLY SLAUGHTER UNDER FEDERAL INSPECTION AT MAJOR CENTERS

City or Area	Cattle		Calves		Hogs		Sheep and lambs	
	Feb. 25 1956	Feb. 26 1955	Feb. 25 1956	Feb. 26 1955	Feb. 25 1956	Feb. 26 1955	Feb. 25 1956	Feb. 26 1955
Boston, New York City Area	11,582	10,146	10,020	10,832	51,506	42,534	41,773	44,033
Baltimore, Philadelphia	6,741	6,502	924	1,037	25,957	23,114	2,212	1,432
Cin., Cleve., Detroit, Indpls.	17,660	15,533	6,258	6,224	110,044	95,032	16,132	10,691
Chicago Area	24,230	23,157	6,557	7,874	51,421	65,753	4,756	5,431
St. Paul-Wis Areas	29,225	28,232	32,523	31,673	123,251	100,191	13,712	11,824
St. Louis Area	13,051	11,650	3,939	4,126	100,986	74,807	5,843	6,120
Sioux City	10,367	7,507	121	8	26,258	19,887	3,277	4,536
Omaha Area	31,774	28,542	835	848	89,891	64,885	15,091	16,707
Kansas City	14,171	12,352	2,462	2,931	41,686	25,211	13,301	9,349
Iowa-So. Minnesota	27,460	25,711	13,845	12,695	311,170	250,957	27,594	29,185
Lou'l. Evan'l. Nash'l. Mph's.	8,506	8,837	6,923	7,641	56,255	44,456	Not available	
Georgia-Alabama Area	6,037	6,072	2,605	2,674	27,953	23,405	—	—
St. Jo'ph. Wichita, Okla. City	17,857	17,525	3,110	2,804	67,833	48,435	12,755	13,415
Ft. Worth, Dallas, San Antonio	12,771	11,839	5,025	5,816	27,922	19,034	11,932	10,017
Denver, Ogden, Salt Lake City	15,751	15,535	815	937	14,146	12,197	25,196	18,111
Los Angeles, San Fran. Areas 1/	24,779	21,891	3,153	2,632	32,866	27,884	36,466	30,490
Portland, Seattle, Spokane	6,032	6,197	389	390	18,040	12,558	3,164	3,838
Total	277,994	257,228	99,504	101,142	1,177,185	950,350	233,204	215,179
Accumulation to date	2,417,302	2,284,935	821,728	814,920	9,964,453	8,380,637	2,025,228	1,969,078

1/ Revision for week ended Feb. 18, 1956 - Sheep 35,183.

ACTUAL FEDERALLY INSPECTED SLAUGHTER AND REVISED ESTIMATE OF MEAT PRODUCTION BY WEEKS, JANUARY, 1956

Week ended	Cattle			Calves			Hogs			Sheep and lambs			Total meat prod.	Lard	
	Number	Av. dr. wt.	Prod.	Number	Av. dr. wt.	Prod.	Number	Av. dr. wt. 1/	Prod. 1/	Number	Av. dr. wt.	Prod.		Yield per 100 lb.	Prod.
	1,000	lb.	mil.lb.	1,000	lb.	mil.lb.	1,000	lb.	mil.lb.	1,000	lb.	mil.lb.	mil.lb.	lb.	mil.lb.
Jan. 7	351	562	197.1	135	119	16.0	1,433	132	189.6	268	49	13.0	415.7	15.0	51.3
14	424	564	239.0	154	119	18.3	1,778	132	235.3	310	48	15.0	507.6	15.2	65.1
21	395	572	225.9	132	116	15.3	1,624	131	213.3	304	48	14.7	469.2	15.1	58.5
28	378	575	217.4	130	116	15.1	1,323	130	172.4	321	48	15.5	420.4	15.6	48.2

1/ Excludes lard.

CATTLE: WEEKLY AVERAGE OF DAILY QUOTATIONS

In dollars per 100 pounds

Classification	Chicago			Kansas City			Omaha		
	Feb. 25 1956	Feb. 18 1956	Feb. 26 1955	Feb. 25 1956	Feb. 18 1956	Feb. 26 1955	Feb. 25 1956	Feb. 18 1956	Feb. 26 1955
Slaughter cattle, calves and vealers									
Steers -									
Prime 900-1100#	23.44	23.38	31.56	21.06	21.38	28.75	22.88	22.12	29.44
1100-1300	23.12	22.98	32.81	20.88	20.62	29.00	21.81	21.55	30.44
Choice 900-1100	20.19	20.38	27.59	18.78	19.00	24.53	19.62	19.42	25.66
1100-1300	19.44	19.58	27.53	18.25	18.50	24.53	19.22	19.18	25.53
Good 900-1100	17.28	17.32	21.72	16.22	16.25	20.03	16.25	16.25	20.72
Com'l. All wts.	14.75	14.90	17.69	14.50	14.50	16.25	13.50	13.55	17.25
Heifers -									
Prime 600-800#	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Choice " "	18.69	18.78	23.84	18.00	18.25	21.94	18.31	18.35	22.84
Good 500-900	16.25	16.33	19.89	15.94	16.20	18.06	15.84	15.72	18.34
Com'l. All wts.	13.97	13.98	16.59	13.88	14.00	14.75	13.50	13.38	14.69
Cows - All weights									
Commercial	11.94	12.55	13.56	11.75	11.98	13.28	12.12	12.12	13.50
Utility	10.72	11.42	11.94	10.68	10.98	12.09	10.88	10.88	12.16
Canner & Cutter	9.62	10.20	10.38	9.62	9.88	10.38	9.50	9.50	10.41
Bulls - All weights -									
Good	13.06	13.55	12.93	--	--	--	12.75	12.90	12.00
Utility & Commercial	14.80	15.20	15.05	13.62	13.50	13.75	13.38	13.55	13.75
Vealers - All weights -									
Choice & Prime	27.00	27.80	26.38	21.00	22.10	23.00	22.50	22.50	23.00
Com'l. & Good	21.00	21.80	20.50	17.00	17.20	17.50	17.00	17.00	17.50
Calves - 500# down									
Choice & Prime	19.50	19.50	20.50	16.75	16.75	18.00	18.75	18.00	20.50
Com'l. & Good	15.00	15.00	15.75	13.75	13.75	14.50	14.25	14.00	16.00
Feeder and stocker cattle and calves									
Steers -									
Choice 500-800#	19.38	19.25	22.31	18.88	18.65	22.75	19.00	19.00	22.50
Good " "	16.50	16.50	19.81	17.50	17.38	20.00	17.12	17.12	20.00
Medium 500-1000	14.50	14.50	17.00	15.00	15.00	17.00	14.62	14.62	17.25
Heifers -									
Choice 500-750	16.50	16.50	18.25	16.50	16.50	19.00	16.50	16.50	18.00
Med. & Gd. " "	13.50	13.50	15.25	14.00	14.00	15.50	13.50	13.50	14.25
Cows - All weights -									
Medium & Good	--	--	--	11.00	11.00	12.00	10.88	10.88	11.38
Calves - 300-500# -									
Steers -									
Good & Choice	20.75	20.50	22.00	19.50	19.50	21.50	20.50	20.50	21.75
Heifers -									
Good & Choice	17.25	17.00	18.50	17.00	17.00	18.75	17.00	17.00	18.25

HOGS: WEEKLY AVERAGE OF DAILY QUOTATIONS

In dollars per 100 pounds

Classification		Chicago			Interior Iowa and southern Minnesota			Indianapolis		
		25 1956	Feb. 18 1956	26 1955	25 1956	Feb. 18 1956	26 1955	25 1956	Feb. 18 1956	26 1955
Barrows and gilts –										
U.S.No.1	160-180#	11.03	11.90	15.84	9.88	10.26	14.70	11.16	11.90	15.97
2 and 3	180-200	11.72	12.45	16.59	11.40	11.69	16.03	12.00	12.54	16.38
	200-220	12.00	12.40	16.56	11.84	12.18	16.28	12.00	12.55	16.28
	220-240	11.97	12.30	16.43	11.46	11.77	15.91	11.84	12.34	16.03
	240-270	11.75	11.92	15.70	10.94	11.25	15.27	11.38	11.85	15.41
	270-300	11.59	11.64	15.28	10.36	10.65	14.52	10.81	11.30	15.03
Sows –										
	300-330#	11.38	11.25	14.75	10.22	10.35	14.04	10.75	10.92	14.12
	360-400	10.94	10.92	14.38	9.72	9.85	13.38	10.25	10.50	13.91
	450-550	10.38	10.30	13.56	9.10	9.22	12.20	9.31	9.52	13.41
Pigs (stocker and feeder)–										
Gd. & Ch.	70-120#	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

		Omaha			St. Louis National Stock Yards			Sioux City		
Barrows and gilts –										
U.S.No.1	160-180#	--	--	--	11.80	12.18	16.44	--	--	--
2 and 3	180-200	12.38	12.56	16.84	12.44	12.86	16.75	12.02	12.30	--
	200-220	12.38	12.56	16.84	12.44	12.88	16.66	12.36	12.52	16.59
	220-240	12.38	12.56	16.72	12.21	12.64	16.31	12.27	12.42	16.47
	240-270	12.03	12.05	16.03	11.85	12.06	15.75	11.84	12.00	15.94
	270-300	11.31	11.40	15.25	11.46	11.58	15.22	11.25	11.28	15.16
Sows –										
	300-330#	10.88	10.90	--	10.90	11.05	14.95	10.88	10.88	14.22
	360-400	10.88	10.90	14.38	10.40	10.55	14.58	10.38	10.48	14.03
	450-550	9.88	10.00	13.81	9.68	9.90	13.70	9.38	9.48	13.19
Pigs (stocker & feeder)–										
Gd. & Ch.	70-120#	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

		S. St. Paul			Baltimore			N. Portland		
Barrows and gilts –										
U.S.No.1	160-180#	11.88	12.00	16.66	12.75	13.12	17.46	14.09	13.88	19.00
2 and 3	180-200	12.56	12.98	16.62	13.12	13.38	17.50	14.34	14.22	19.25
	200-220	12.56	12.98	16.53	13.12	13.48	17.50	14.34	14.22	19.25
	220-240	12.44	12.78	16.03	12.88	13.18	17.21	14.09	14.03	19.00
	240-270	12.09	12.28	15.28	12.25	12.45	16.58	13.25	13.06	18.12
	270-300	11.28	11.38	14.59	11.88	11.32	15.83	12.88	12.75	17.75
Sows –										
	300-330#	10.38	10.48	14.00	9.88	9.72	14.96	12.00	12.00	16.25
	360-400	9.88	9.98	13.38	9.88	9.72	14.92	10.88	11.12	16.00
	450-550	9.44	9.50	12.75	8.50	8.20	12.92	10.00	9.75	15.25
Pigs (stocker & feeder)–										
Gd. & Ch.	70-120#	10.50	10.45	16.44	--	--	--	--	--	--

HOGS: AVERAGE COST, WEIGHT, AND NUMBER OF PACKER AND SHIPPER PURCHASES 1/

	Week ended	Chicago	St. Louis Natl. Stock Yards	Kansas City	Omaha	Sioux City	S. St. Joseph	S. St. Paul	Indianapolis	8 mkts. combined
AVERAGE COST -					Dollars per 100 pounds					
Barrows and gilts	Feb. 25,1956	11.74	12.11	11.99	12.03	11.87	12.28	11.92	11.79	11.95
	Feb. 18,1956	12.02	12.49	12.38	12.19	11.98	12.32	12.09	12.36	12.22
	Feb. 26,1955	15.77	16.36	16.58	16.03	15.79	16.50	15.68	15.98	16.00
Sows	Feb. 25,1956	10.62	10.16	10.39	10.40	9.88	10.56	10.01	9.65	10.24
	Feb. 18,1956	10.59	10.34	10.36	10.42	9.97	10.58	9.98	9.77	10.25
	Feb. 26,1955	14.13	14.24	14.32	13.90	13.55	14.47	13.38	13.63	13.89
AVERAGE WEIGHT -					Pounds					
Barrows and gilts	Feb. 25,1956	241	219	223	230	235	219	221	221	225
	Feb. 18,1956	239	218	221	230	237	219	224	222	226
	Feb. 26,1955	246	219	224	245	249	229	228	224	232
Sows	Feb. 25,1956	432	415	403	404	417	400	404	451	419
	Feb. 18,1956	443	415	410	407	424	378	416	450	423
	Feb. 26,1955	435	403	414	435	429	410	403	439	423
NUMBER OF HEAD -										
Barrows and gilts	Feb. 25,1956	37714	56700	12233	42011	32798	30535	57470	59550	329011
	Feb. 18,1956	41921	56620	11324	49771	35289	24101	63750	49351	332127
	Feb. 26,1955	39854	47829	7984	30578	25387	20583	48464	48817	269496
Sows	Feb. 25,1956	4920	3720	820	3125	1183	1894	2842	2929	21433
	Feb. 18,1956	4322	3177	850	3014	1220	1639	2992	3243	20457
	Feb. 26,1955	2638	1863	292	1491	882	1166	2205	2553	13090
SOWS					Percentage of total					
	Feb. 25,1956	12	6	6	7	4	6	5	5	6
	Feb. 18,1956	9	5	7	6	3	6	4	6	6
	Feb. 26,1955	6	4	4	5	3	5	4	5	5

1/ Weighted average.

WEEKLY AVERAGE WHOLESALE VALUE OF HOG PRODUCTS DERIVED FROM 100 LB. LIVE HOG, COMPARED WITH PRICES OF LIVE HOGS, CHICAGO

	Hog products 1/	Hog prices 2/	Gross spread or margin 3/
Feb. 25, 1956	$15.59	$11.72	+$3.87
Feb. 18, 1956	15.39	12.45	+ 2.94
Feb. 26, 1955	18.82	16.59	+ 2.23

1/ Value of all edible products, fresh basis (lard rendered) in 100 lb. of live hog computed from wholesale prices on carlot basis, Chicago, reported by National Provisioner daily market report.

2/ Mean of daily quotations on U.S.No. 1, 2 and 3 hogs 180-200# wt.Chicago

3/ Difference between wholesale product value and hog prices.

HOG AND CORN PRICES AT CHICAGO AND HOG-CORN PRICE RATIO

Week ended	Barrows and gilts Dollars per 100 pounds	Corn, No. 3, yellow 1/ Cents per bushel	Hog-corn price ratio based on barrows and gilts
Feb. 25, 1956	11.74	126.6	9.3
Feb. 18, 1956	12.02	127.1	9.5
Feb. 26, 1955	15.77	147.0	10.7

1/ Simple average price.

SHEEP AND LAMBS: WEEKLY AVERAGE OF DAILY QUOTATIONS

In dollars per 100 pounds

		Chicago	Omaha	Kansas City	Fort Worth	Denver	Ogden & North Salt Lake	South San Francisco
LAMBS - 110# down (WOOLED) -								
Choice and Prime	Feb. 25, 1956	20.25	20.12	19.68	--	19.88	--	--
	Feb. 18, 1956	20.33	19.20	18.65	--	19.32	--	20.00
	Feb. 26, 1955	22.34	22.42	22.19	--	21.94	--	21.00
Good and Choice	Feb. 25, 1956	19.50	19.38	18.81	17.88	18.75	17.10	18.50
	Feb. 18, 1956	19.60	18.40	17.55	17.62	18.52	17.50	--
	Feb. 26, 1955	21.47	21.41	21.31	19.75*	20.41	20.00	20.00
EWES (WOOLED) -								
Good and Choice	Feb. 25, 1956	7.50	5.50	5.00	--	8.62	6.00	--
	Feb. 18, 1956	7.25	5.50	4.92	--	8.62**	6.25	6.75
	Feb. 26, 1955	8.12	8.00	7.50	--	8.53	--	--
Cull and Utility	Feb. 25, 1956	5.62	4.25	4.25	--	6.50	3.75	--
	Feb. 18, 1956	5.50	4.25	4.02	--	6.50	4.25	4.00
	Feb. 26, 1955	6.75	6.50	6.12	--	5.97	--	--
FEEDER LAMBS -								
Good and Choice	Feb. 25, 1956	--	19.00	--	16.95	18.38	--	--
	Feb. 18, 1956	--	18.50	--	16.95	18.32	--	--
	Feb. 26, 1955	--	20.75	--	19.00	20.62	--	--

* Shorn basis. **Revised.

ESTIMATED PERCENT FEEDER AND STOCKER CATTLE AND SLAUGHTER COWS IN SALABLE RECEIPTS

Week ended	Chicago	Kansas City	Omaha	S. St. Joseph	St.Louis NSY	Sioux City	S. St. Paul
			Feeders and stockers				
Feb. 24, 1956	2	27	5	13	7	16	5
Feb. 17, 1956	2	29	5	9	5	13	5
Feb. 25, 1955	3	27	7	9	6	14	5
			Slaughter cows				
Feb. 24, 1956	8	10	11	15	17	11	35
Feb. 17, 1956	7	11	11	9	19	11	30
Feb. 25, 1955	15	13	10	13	18	7	30

Week ended	Indianapolis	Denver	Fort Worth	Okla. City	Wichita	San Antonio
			Feeders and stockers			
Feb. 24, 1956	3	5	15	50	32	35
Feb. 17, 1956	2	5	20	45	30	40
Feb. 25, 1955	4	10	30	55	32	35
			Slaughter cows			
Feb. 24, 1956	13	15	15	11	17	15
Feb. 17, 1956	14	10	12	12	27	20
Feb. 25, 1955	26	20	10	15	17	27

NEW YORK WHOLESALE MEAT TRADE REVIEW

Western Dressed Fresh Meats

Trading was interrupted at midweek, as packers and wholesalers in the Metropolitan Area were closed in observance of Washington's birthday. Most retail interests participated in the trade, both before and after the holiday, with trade most active early. Volume of most classes was normal, but available stocks of lamb and fresh pork assumed moderate proportions after the holiday. Carcass returns on steer beef improved slightly while cow beef sold steady. Veal and calf prices were definitely lower, while strong to higher opening prices on lamb were well sustained. Some unevenness featured the fresh pork trade, but favorable weather and reduced stocks lent stability to the late trade. Compared with the previous week: Steer beef steady to 50¢ higher; cow beef unchanged; veal weak to $3.00 lower; calf weak to $2.00 lower; lamb fully steady to $1.00 higher; pork loins steady to $2.00 higher; other fresh pork cuts steady to $1.00 higher.

Carcasses grading Good and Choice comprised bulk of a normal steer supply, with Prime sparingly represented. Movement of hindquarters improved with volume outlets most aggressive, and prices turned upward. Arm chucks and rounds moved out freely, but sellers were unable to advance prices. Prices of cow beef were unchanged due in part to the relatively small price differential on steer counterparts.

Uneven downturns were registered in veal and calf. Buyer urgency was lacking on all sessions and late sales were mainly toward the low end of quotations, with some carryover indicated. Receipts of lamb decreased after the holiday. Weight was the dominant factor in establishing prices. Preference was given to carcasses under 50# which were priced $1.00 higher, while heavier offerings sold steady. Outlet for lamb foresaddle cuts was fairly broad.

Advances of $1.00 to $2.00 were shown on all fresh pork cuts at the outset. Loin prices dipped slightly preceding the holiday, but undertone was firm toward the close. Early clearances were the general rule.

Locally Dressed Fresh Meats

Trade was fairly active throughout as demand was quite broad. Movement of steer beef was fairly dependable. Weight was the dominant factor in the lamb division. Outlet for veal and calf was rather narrow with prices under severe pressure. Demand for fresh pork lacked urgency, but prices reflected strength toward the close. Movement of kosher classes was dependable with beef steady to strong, veal mostly lower, while prices of kosher lamb foresaddles worked upward.

Choice steer beef was liberally represented, with Prime rather scarce. Hindquarter prices were weak at the outset, but reacted later as volume accounts purchased freely. Most primal wholesale cuts sold at steady prices, but movement of rib and loin cuts was rather slow. Prices on kosher steer cuts held about in line with the previous week in a fair trade.

All grades and weights of veal and calf hindsaddles were priced lower for the week. Buyer interest lagged and purchases were held to a minimum. Trading on lamb was mostly fair on all sessions with buyers showing preference for carcasses under 50#. Good to Prime selections scaling around 38-45# showed an advance of $1.00 or more. Outlet was fairly broad for kosher lamb foresaddles. Prices strengthened gradually and closed $3.00 higher.

A normal production of locally dressed fresh pork sold early under pressure with some weakness on 8-12# fresh loins. A fairly broad inquiry prevailed after the holiday, and prices showed a firm tendency toward the close.

Local slaughter of all species decreased compared with a week earlier, due largely to the suspension of killing operations on the holiday, Wednesday Feb. 22.

CHICAGO WHOLESALE MEAT TRADE REVIEW

The week's aggregate fresh meat supply was somewhat below normal, due to suspension of slaughtering on Wednesday, Washington's birthday. Offerings in all classes proved adequate, although Prime beef, lamb, and veal were in relatively small supply. Bulk of the beef and lamb graded Good and Choice. Most lamb consisted of weights over 55#. Local trading in distributive channels was rather slow. However, large volume buying interests from out of town were fairly active, particularly on beef and pork. Moderate interest was shown for middle cuts of lamb, Good to Prime veal hindsaddles, and squarecut beef chucks. In pork cuts, loins 8-12# and spareribs 3# down were in best demand. Large chain and hotel and restaurant supply operators absorbed bulk of the week's fresh meat offerings. The week's higher prices for beef, lamb, and pork cuts were influenced principally by moderate supplies and higher replacement costs rather than expanded demand. Fairly good wholesale clearances of fresh meat are in prospect in spite of the slow local trade, as receipts after Tuesday in most wholesale establishments were below normal. Compared to last Thursday's close: Beef 50¢ to $1.50 higher; veal $1.00-2.00 lower; lamb $1.00-2.50 higher; pork loins 8-16# up $2.00-3.50; Boston butts 4-8# and spareribs 3# down steady.

Choice and Prime squarecut beef chucks brought $27.00-29.00; comparable rounds $38.50-42.00; Prime loins $79.00-83.00, Choice $52.00-59.00; Prime ribs $54.00-56.00, Choice $37.00-41.00; Choice and Prime kosher style chucks $27.00-29.00. Lamb hindsaddles turned at $46.00-52.00; legs $43.00-47.00; loins $54.00-58.00; hotel ribs $48.00-54.00. Pork loins 8-12# sold at $33.50-36.50, 12-16# $31.50-35.00; Boston butts $25.00-29.00; spareribs $28.00-32.00.

PACIFIC COAST WHOLESALE MEAT TRADE REVIEW

Supplies were reduced because of the holiday but demand showed little improvement as deliveries were on a four-day basis. Outlet continued narrow at most points, influenced in part by unfavorable weather at Los Angeles and in the Northwest. Most steer carcasses were in liberal supply with cow beef moderate but adequate, and volume of veal and calf moderate to small. Lamb carcasses under 55# were in moderate supply, with a liberal volume over 55#. Supply of fresh and cured pork cuts was more than adequate for the demand. Trading continued slow on most steer carcasses, fair on cow beef and calf. Lamb trade was fair while trading on fresh and cured pork cuts was mostly slow. Prices compared with last Friday: Steer beef weak to $1.00 lower; cow beef mostly steady, instances $1.00 higher on Cutter at San Francisco; veal and calf steady; lamb steady to $1.00 lower; fresh and cured pork cuts mostly steady; some sale loins $1.00 higher at Los Angeles and Seattle and $1.00 lower at Portland.

Choice steer beef under 700# brought $30.00-33.00, few $34.00 at San Francisco and Seattle; 700-800# $28.00-30.00 in California; Good under 700# $25.00-30.00, some reaching $31.00 at Seattle and $32.00 at San Francisco; Commercial $24.00-29.00. Commercial cow beef bulked from $23.00-27.00, few soft-boned carcasses to $28.00 at San Francisco; mature Utility $22.00-25.00; Canner and Cutter $18.00-22.00, lean heavy Cutter carcasses to $23.00 sparingly.

Good and Choice veal carcasses under 150# brought $36.00-48.00, few $51.00 at Seattle; Good and Choice calf to 300# $34.00-39.00; Commercial $29.00-33.00 in California. Choice and Prime lamb under 55# cashed from $35.00-39.00, few $40.00 in the Northwest; Good, all weights, $31.00-38.00; Utility to Choice mutton $18.00-20.00 at Los Angeles. Closely trimmed pork loins sold from $35.00-40.00, some reaching $42.00 in the Northwest; fresh skinned hams under 18# $40.00-47.00; shoulders under 16# $23.00-32.00; Boston butts $29.00-34.00; smoked skinned hams under 18# $42.00-50.00; slab bacon to 10# $30.00-42.00; lard in 1# cartons $13.50-18.00.

WHOLESALE DRESSED MEAT PRICES: WEEKLY AVERAGE OF DAILY QUOTATIONS

In dollars per 100 pounds

Classification		New York			Chicago			San Francisco		
		Feb. 25 1956	Feb. 18 1956	Feb. 26 1955	Feb. 25 1956	Feb. 18 1956	Feb. 26 1955	Feb. 25 1956	Feb. 18 1956	Feb. 26 1955
Beef –										
Steer –										
Prime	600–700#	38.00	38.00	--	37.50	37.50	51.00	--	--	--
	700–800	36.00	36.00	50.00	37.50	37.50	51.00	--	--	--
Choice	500–600	--	--	--	33.62	32.90	41.25	33.00	34.00	41.00
	600–700	33.62	33.50	44.00	33.62	32.90	43.00	31.00	32.00	39.56
Good	350–600	30.00	30.00	39.10	28.12	28.75	35.50	30.50	31.25	39.50
Com'l.	" "	28.00	28.00	33.50	26.81	27.40	32.00	28.00	28.00	35.50
Cow, all wts. –										
Commercial		26.00	26.00	28.60	--	--	--	26.00	26.00	28.25
Utility		23.00	23.00	25.10	--	--	--	23.00	22.80	25.25
Veal –										
Prime	80–110#	47.25	48.50	48.10	44.50	45.50	43.50	--	--	--
Choice	" "	41.00	43.00	39.50	40.88	42.40	40.00	--	--	--
Good	" "	34.12	35.00	35.80	36.62	37.60	37.25	45.00	45.00	45.00
Lamb –										
Prime	40–50#	37.00	37.00	44.50	36.88	35.50	42.50	38.00	39.00	42.00
	50–60	34.00	34.00	44.50	33.12	32.50	41.00	37.00	37.00	40.50
Choice	40–50	37.00	37.00	41.70	36.88	35.50	41.50	38.00	38.00	42.00
	50–60	34.00	34.00	41.70	33.38	32.50	38.50	36.00	36.00	40.00
Good	all wts	34.38	34.00	40.50	33.75	33.00	38.00	35.50	35.50	38.00
Pork – Fresh –										
Loins	8–10# av.	34.88	35.50	44.70	34.31	34.45	42.62	39.00	40.20	48.50
	10–12 "	34.88	35.50	44.70	34.31	34.45	42.62	40.00	41.00	47.00
	12–16 "	34.12	35.17	42.70	32.69	33.65	41.00	39.00	40.20	45.50
Butts	4–8 "	32.25	31.50	36.00	27.00	27.30	34.38	35.00	35.00	40.00
Pork – Cured – Choice										
Hams, smk., skd. –										
	12–16# av.	44.00	44.00	46.50	49.12	48.20	47.50	50.00	50.00	52.50
	16–18 "	42.00	42.00	42.00	46.75	45.75	44.50	47.50	47.50	48.00
	18–20 "	--	--	--	46.12	44.75	44.25	--	--	--
Bacon, smk., slab –										
	6–8# av.	--	--	--	33.00	32.65	50.62	40.00	40.00	55.00
	8–10 "	33.00	32.00	45.00	32.00	31.80	46.38	38.00	38.00	50.00
Sliced 1 # pkg.		37.00	37.50	48.50	37.00	37.75	53.00	42.50	42.50	56.00
Picnics, smoked –										
	4–8# av.	24.50	23.50	33.00	28.62	28.50	34.12	30.00	30.00	34.00
Backs, D. S. –										
	16–20# av.	13.00	12.00	13.50	11.75	11.50	12.00	--	--	--
Lard, 1# cartons –										
Refined		16.25	16.00	17.00	14.75	14.55	15.50	17.25	17.25	17.50
Substitutes		--	--	--	25.00	25.00	28.00	--	--	--

Note: Quotations at New York exclude locally dressed meats.

BOSTON WOOL MARKET REVIEW

Trade in greasy domestic worsted wools continued slow in the Boston market as approximately five cars of various graded wools were moved. Vertical mills were the main buyers while topmakers showed little interest. There was no quotable change in the price of greasy wools. The movement of scoured wools and noils was limited at the previous week's price level. Interest among dealers was directed toward the western States where contracting and purchases of greasy combing wools increased.

Cabled reports from Dominion sales early in the week showed Cape prices very strong. Australian prices were a little higher while the trend in New Zealand was slightly easier. There was good general competition in all markets. South American prices held firm and unchanged.

Fleece Wools - Graded 56/58s good French combing and staple fleece wool sold at 58¢ in the grease and was estimated to cost clean around $1.09. Graded 56/58s fleeces were sold for May-June delivery at $1.10 clean basis, delivered mill.

Territory Wools - A graded line of good French combing and staple territory 60/62s sold at $1.22 clean basis. Early shorn Arizona bulk fine, good French combing and staple wool was sold at 45¢ grease basis to the grower and was estimated to cost clean from $1.23-1.29 delivered East, depending on shrinkage. In North Central California, 12 months wool, 8 months wool and lambs wool was contracted around 50¢ grease basis to the grower.

Texas Wools - Original bag 12 months Texas wool, bulk fine, bulk average to good French combing sold in the local market at $1.35 clean basis, while 12 months wool was contracted in Texas around 50¢ grease basis to the warehouse and was estimated to cost clean around $1.30 delivered Boston.

Mohair - Adult mohair was purchased in Texas at 83½¢ to the warehouse. A few cars of mohair were contracted at 83½¢ for adult and $1.03½ for kid mohair to the warehouse.

Foreign Wools - Turnover of spot foreign wools was slow. Cabled reports from Australia late in the week showed quotations from 1¢ to 2¢ lower. Quotes follow: Type 56B at $1.23; 61B at $1.28; 62B at $1.22; 63B at $1.17 and 78B at $1.22. New Zealand quotes were about 1¢ to 2¢ lower as follows: Type 93 at $.905; 834 at 89¢; 100 at 87¢; 107 at 85¢; 114 at 83¢ and 128 at 83¢. Prices in South Africa were in the buyers favor, as follows: Type 7 at $1.22; 8 at $1.195; 47 at $1.20; 48 at $1.18; 52 at $1.18. Short wools were priced as follows: Type 27 at $1.195; 28 at $1.17; 32 at $1.17 and 33 at $1.15. Above quotes based on clean U. S. yields in bond.

Carpet Wools - Movement of carpet wools in the local market was practically at a standstill. Buenos Aires November second clip wools were priced at 85¢-86¢ while New Zealand carpet fleeces were 85¢-86¢ clean fibers present, for shipment. India wools were unchanged while some dealers said spot wools were cheaper than for import.

Wool Tops - Most mills were fairly well covered for wool tops and the market was quiet. Quotes follow: Warp Australian oil-combed 70s at $1.90; 64s at $1.80; 62s at $1.73. Short French dry-combed 70s at $1.88 and 64s at $1.80. Warp domestic oil-combed 62s at $1.73; 60s at $1.68; 58/60s at $1.63; 56s at $1.45; 50/56s at $1.40 and 48/50s at $1.32.

CORRECTED COPY

Stocker and feeder cattle and sheep received in several Corn Belt States 1/
January 1956, with comparisons

State	Public Stock Yards		Direct		Total		Cumulative Total	
	January		January		January		Jan.-Dec. incl.	
	1956	1955	1956	1955	1956	1955	1955 2/	1954
Cattle and Calves								
Ohio	7,575	9,084	2,494	779	10,069	9,863	176,207	139,799
Indiana	5,558	6,079	1,231	3,170	6,789	9,249	226,181	208,929
Illinois	23,244	24,414	41,606	43,095	64,850	67,509	1,086,879	973,502
Michigan	3,406	3,507	2,132	559	5,538	4,066	98,499	87,358
Wisconsin	2,012	593	512	243	2,524	836	33,972	35,353
Minnesota	8,891	9,766	14,148	15,813	23,039	25,579	367,047	297,874
Iowa	53,014	69,906	33,320	31,318	86,334	101,224	1,649,431	1,649,131
South Dakota	5,754	9,377	783	2,090	6,537	11,467	134,668	134,893
Nebraska	19,587	39,043	23,895	25,137	43,482	64,180	632,024	748,760
Total 9 States	129,041	171,769	120,121	122,204	249,162	293,973	4,404,908	4,275,599
Sheep and Lambs								
Ohio	1,223	6,302	1,046	645	2,269	6,947	77,893	68,616
Indiana	1,663	1,422	581	2,031	2,244	3,453	121,347	117,155
Illinois	8,478	7,151	7,357	12,614	15,835	19,765	322,823	315,686
Michigan	501	884	790	834	1,291	1,718	33,668	27,602
Wisconsin	---	1,214	---	---	---	1,214	21,948	34,650
Minnesota	14,018	18,269	5,636	13,696	19,654	31,965	277,571	267,502
Iowa	16,892	30,859	80,322	69,140	97,214	99,999	1,026,469	996,996
South Dakota	4,181	11,461	4,312	5,574	8,493	17,035	176,698	187,533
Nebraska	5,184	26,347	7,982	17,715	13,166	44,062	690,290	1,032,490
Total 9 States	52,140	103,909	108,026	122,249	160,166	226,158	2,748,707	3,048,230

1/ Data in this report are obtained from offices of State Veterinarians. Under "Public Stockyards" are included stockers and feeders which were bought at stockyards markets. Under "Direct" are included stockers and feeders coming from other States from points other than public stockyards, some of which are inspected at public stockyards while stopping for feed, water, and rest en route.

2/ Corrected.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE
Agricultural Estimates Division
Washington, D. C.

UNITED STATES FEDERALLY INSPECTED SLAUGHTER AND MEAT PRODUCTION

January 1956 - with comparisons

	January		Percentage January 1956 of	
	1956	1955	Jan. 1955	5-yr. Jan. av.
Number slaughtered under Federal Inspection: (thousands of head) -				
Cattle	1,697	1,521	112	128
Calves	602	563	107	127
Hogs	6,705	5,519	121	112
Sheep and lambs.	1,329	1,223	109	113
Average live weight: (pounds) -				
Cattle	1020.4	984.8	104	102
Steers 1/	1056.9	988.1	107	104
Heifers 1/	897.7	866.6	104	104
Cows 1/	1023.4	1019.5	100	100
Calves	213.8	212.9	100	102
Hogs	237.8	246.7	96	97
Sheep & lambs	100.5	100.3	100	100
Average cost to packers: (dollars per 100 pounds) -				
Cattle	15.63	17.60	89	72
Steers	18.31	22.79	80	70
Heifers 1/	17.51	20.62	85	71
Cows 1/	10.30	10.24	101	65
Calves	16.88	17.49	97	74
Hogs	11.24	16.79	67	58
Sheep & lambs	18.08	19.55	92	77
Dressing yields: (per 100 pounds live weight) -				
Cattle	55.9	54.8	--	--
Calves	55.4	55.4	--	--
Hogs 2/	76.2	77.3	--	--
Sheep & lambs	48.1	48.1	--	--
Lard per 100#	15.1	15.0	--	--
Lard per animal	36.0	37.0	--	--
Average dressed weight: (pounds) -				
Cattle	570.4	539.7	--	--
Calves	118.4	117.9	--	--
Hogs	181.2	190.7	--	--
Sheep & lambs	48.3	48.2	--	--
Condemnations:* (number of head) -				
Cattle	6,604	6,487	--	--
Calves	4,948	4,172	--	--
Hogs	12,090	9,730	--	--
Sheep & lambs	3,325	3,217	--	--
Total dressed weight - Excluding condemned: (thousands of pounds) -				
Beef	964,141	817,430	118	133
Veal	70,684	65,941	107	129
Pork (carcass wt.)	1,212,803	1,050,606	115	108
Lamb & Mutton	64,032	58,810	109	114
Total 3/	2,311,660	1,992,786	116	118
Pork, excl. lard	883,358	771,981	114	108
Lard production 4/	240,907	203,886	118	110
Rendered pork fat.	11,236	9,312	121	112

1/ Also included with cattle. 2/ Subtract 7.0 to obtain reported packer style average. 3/ Totals based on unrounded numbers. 4/ Includes rendered pork fat. *Partly estimated.

CLASSIFICATION OF LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTERED UNDER FEDERAL INSPECTION 1/

	Number (000 omitted)			Percent		
	Jan. 1956	Dec. 1955	Jan. 1955	Jan. 1956	Dec. 1955	Jan. 1955
Cattle:						
Steers	896	778	718	52.8	48.1	47.2
Heifers	260	225	236	15.3	13.9	15.5
Cows	512	584	540	30.2	36.1	35.5
Bulls & stags	29	31	27	1.7	1.9	1.8
Total 2/	1,697	1,618	1,521	100.0	100.0	100.0
Canners & Cutters 3/	258	330	259	15.2	20.4	17.0
Hogs:						
Sows	375	527	254	5.6	7.2	4.6
Barrows & gilts	6,296	6,760	5,237	93.9	92.3	94.9
Stags & boars	34	37	28	.5	.5	.5
Total 2/	6,705	7,324	5,519	100.0	100.0	100.0
Sheep and lambs:						
Lambs & yearlings	1,300	1,061	1,182	97.8	91.9	96.6
Sheep	29	94	42	2.2	8.1	3.4
Total 2/	1,329	1,155	1,224	100.0	100.0	100.0

1/ Based on reports from packers. 2/ Totals based on rounded numbers.
3/ Included in cattle classification.

PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION, BY CLASSES, OF CATTLE SLAUGHTERED UNDER FEDERAL INSPECTION

Region	Steers		Heifers		Cows		Bulls and Stags		Canners & Cutters all classes	
	Jan.		Jan.		Jan.		Jan.		Jan.	
	1956	1955	1956	1955	1956	1955	1956	1955	1956	1955
	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.
N. Atlantic States.....	62.6	60.1	1.7	2.4	34.2	35.8	1.5	1.7	18.5	26.0
S. Atlantic States.....	53.3	46.4	3.4	5.4	39.9	42.2	3.4	6.0	28.2	27.7
N.C. States - Eastern..	56.0	48.7	7.2	7.0	34.8	42.3	2.0	2.0	16.0	20.1
N.C. States - N.Western	50.1	46.0	18.3	17.5	30.0	35.2	1.6	1.3	13.0	13.0
N.C. States - S.Western	63.0	60.4	15.4	12.9	20.9	25.5	.7	1.2	10.1	13.0
S. Central States.....	39.3	32.4	9.4	13.5	48.7	51.2	2.6	3.0	33.5	32.0
Mountain States.....	40.0	33.2	40.1	43.6	18.7	21.4	1.2	1.8	8.7	8.0
Pacific States.....	58.9	49.4	17.4	20.7	22.0	27.9	1.7	1.9	7.9	8.7

WOOL PRODUCTION AND VALUE OF SALES, 1955

Wool production, shorn and pulled, in the United States in 1955 totaled 275 million pounds, according to the Crop Reporting Board. This was 2 percent below the 1954 production. Of the total wool production in 1955, 233 million pounds were shorn wool and 42 million pounds pulled wool. In 1954, total production was 279 million pounds, of which 236 million pounds were shorn and 43 million pulled. The 1944-53 average production of all wool was 301 million pounds, of which 253 million pounds were shorn wool and 48 million pounds pulled wool.

The average price received by growers for shorn wool during the period April 1955 through January 1956 was 44.0 cents per pound. Over 90 percent of the wool was estimated sold by the end of January. The price for the April-January period compares with 53.2 cents per pound received for 1954 wool and the 10-year average of 52.3 cents. Value of sales for shorn wool produced in 1955 were estimated at 103 million dollars, 18 percent below the 126 million dollars received for the 1954 clip and 23 percent below the 10-year average.

The number of sheep and lambs shorn in 1955 totaled 27.3 million head, a decrease of 1 percent from the number shorn in 1954. This compares with the 10-year average of 31.2 million head shorn. The weight per fleece was 8.54 pounds, the highest of record. The previous record was 8.52 pounds per fleece in 1954. The 10-year average is 8.12 pounds.

Pulled wool production in 1955 is estimated at 42 million pounds, a decrease of 4 percent from 1954. Commercial slaughter of sheep and lambs during 1955 was 2 percent greater than in 1954. The average weight of wool pulled per skin was 3.53 pounds compared with 3.48 in 1954. Wool was pulled from a smaller proportion of the total available skins than in 1954.

WOOL PRODUCTION AND VALUE OF SALES, UNITED STATES, 1944-55

Year	Sheep shorn 1/	Weight per fleece	Production shorn wool	Price per pound 2/	Value of sales	Pulled wool production	Total shorn and pulled wool production
	1,000 head	Lb.	1,000 lb.	Cents	1,000 dol.	1,000 lb.	1,000 lb.
1944....	43,165	7.84	338,318	42.3	143,224	73,500	411,818
1945....	38,763	7.95	307,976	41.9	128,970	70,500	378,476
1946....	34,647	8.11	280,908	42.3	118,805	61,300	342,208
1947....	30,953	8.12	251,425	42.0	105,654	56,600	308,025
1948....	28,649	8.09	231,770	49.2	114,055	46,600	278,370
1949....	26,382	8.07	212,899	49.4	105,223	35,600	248,499
1950....	26,380	8.22	216,944	62.1	134,623	32,400	249,344
1951....	27,347	8.34	228,091	97.1	221,456	25,900	253,991
1952....	28,051	8.32	233,309	54.1	126,327	33,600	266,909
1953....	27,845	8.34	232,256	54.9	127,514	42,200	274,458
1954....	27,692	8.52	235,807	53.2	125,538	43,500	279,307
1955 3/.	27,327	8.54	233,370	44.0 4/	102,591 5/	41,600	274,970
1944-53 av...	31,218	8.12	253,390	52.3	132,585	47,820	301,210

1/ Includes shearing at commercial feeding yards.
2/ The average price is for the marketing season April through March except for 1955. 1953 and 1954 include an allowance for unredeemed loan wool.
3/ Preliminary. 4/ Weighted average price for wool sold April 1955-January 1956.
5/ 1955 production multiplied by April-January average price.

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WESTERN LIVESTOCK REVIEW - CONTINUED FROM PAGE 167

Supply and demand conditions varied considerably at Western terminal markets and price trends were somewhat uneven. Slaughter steers and heifers closed mostly steady, instances both 50¢ higher and 50¢ lower. Price trend on cows was also rather uneven. Vealers and slaughter calves sold fully steady to in instances 50¢ higher; stockers and feeders steady to 50¢ higher; barrows and gilts 50¢ higher at Portland, mostly steady to 50¢ lower elsewhere; slaughter lambs somewhat stronger at Denver and Portland; steady to $1.00 lower at other points.

One load of high-Choice to Prime 1046# fed steers brought $20.85 at Denver, a few $19.25-19.50 at Portland; most Choice steers of all weights at other terminals $16.25-19.00; Good $15.00-18.00. Good and Choice fed heifers brought $14.50-17.25, several loads average to high-Choice at Denver from $17.50-18.00. Utility and Commercial cows cleared from $9.50-13.50; Canners and Cutters $7.50-10.50. Choice and Prime vealers brought $24.50-30.00, other Good and Choice $20.00-24.00; same grades slaughter calves 350# up $16.00-20.00, Choice 400# $22.00, Good and Choice under 350# $23.00-28.00 at Spokane. Stock steer calves grading Good and Choice cashed from $18.00-20.00, few Choice $21.50 at Denver; Good and Choice stock heifer calves $15.00-18.00; same grades stocker and feeder steers $15.00-18.25.

Direct sales of slaughter steers and heifers were steady to strong in Northern California but weak to 50¢ lower in Southern California and Arizona. Choice fed steers under 1200# sold for immediate delivery from $18.00-18.50, few loads 1000-1050# $18.75-19.00 in Northern California; Good to low-Choice 900-1100# $16.50-17.50, mostly Choice 1300# $17.00. Good and Choice fed heifers brought $15.00-16.50, few loads high yielding heifers $17.00. A few loads of Good to low-Choice yearling stock steers brought $18.25 in Northern California, Good 642# $16.75 in Central California; load 640# Montana yearlings $15.60.

Mixed No. 1 to 3 180-240# barrows and gilts bulked in S. San Francisco late at $13.75; at Stockton $14.00-14.25; Los Angeles $14.00; Portland $13.50-15.00, few $15.50; Spokane $13.75; Ogden $12.75-13.25; Denver $12.00-13.25. Choice and Prime wooled slaughter lambs bulked at Denver from $19.75-20.50; Good and Choice fall shorn to full wooled at other terminals $16.50-19.00 including Choice 118# lambs with No. 1 pelts at $17.70 at S. San Francisco. Among the sales of old-crop lambs in the Imperial Valley were Good and Choice offerings with No. 1 pelts at $13.00, few loads 104-105# $18.50, and 115# averages $17.50. Direct sales f.o.b. valley at 4% shrink.